

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/054,898
Attorney Docket No.: Q67951

REMARKS

Claims 50-52 and 58-63 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 59 and 61 to further clarify the invention. Applicant submits that these minor, basic elements do not narrow the scope of the claims and do not raise any Festo implications. In addition, Applicant adds claim 64, which is supported throughout the specification, for example, in Figures 4a and 4b, page 28, line 15 to page 29, line 18 of the specification.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 50-52, 58, 60, 62 and 63.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 59 and 61 stand rejected under 102(e) as being anticipated by USP 6,036,305 to Nagasaki et al. (hereinafter “Nagasaki”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider this rejection in view of the comments, which follow.

Independent claim 59, as now amended, recites: “said guide body extending from said second member in a direction substantially parallel with said ink channel”. The Examiner asserts that claim 59 is directed to an ink cartridge and is anticipated by Nagasaki. The Examiner asserts that Nagasaki’s left wall of the cartridge 11 (as shown in Figure 3) is equivalent to guide body as set forth in claim 59 (see page 3 of the Office Action). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. Applicant has carefully studied Nagasaki’s discussion of the left wall of the cartridge,

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which is not similar to the guide body extending from said second member in a substantially parallel direction with said ink channel.

Nagasaki teaches an ink cartridge 11 with chambers 12 and 13, and a connection part 16 provided in the left of the chamber 13, which connects to the supply pipe 2 of the printing head 1. The connection part 16 is provided with a coil spring 17 and a valve 18, a packing 19 and a plate member 20. Under normal conditions, the valve 18 of the chamber 13 is in close contact with the packing 19 due to the force of the coil spring 17. Thus, the chamber 13 is sealed to the outside of the ink cartridge 11. The plate member 20 is used to fix the packing 19 to the connection part 16 (Fig. 2; col. 5, lines 54 to 67). Nagasaki further teaches the valve 18 pressed to deform by the end of the supply pipe 2, resulting in no gap being created between the valve 18 and the end of the supply pipe 2. Since the packing material 19 has a shape that corresponds to the shape of the end of the supply pipe 2, the air does not remain in the neighborhood of the valve 18 and the supply pipe 2 (Figs. 5 and 6; col. 6, lines 55 to 62).

However, even assuming *arguendo* that the guide body as set forth in claim 59 is somewhat similar to the left wall of the cartridge 11 of Nagasaki, this left wall is a part of the cartridge 11. That is, this wall does not extend from the valve 18. Therefore, a *guide body extending from said second member* as set forth in claim 59 is not suggested or taught by Nagasaki, which lacks having the left wall of ink cartridge 11 extend from the valve 18. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 59 is patentably distinguishable from Nagasaki. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection of independent claim 59.

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Next, independent claim 61, as now amended, recites: *an internal opening positioned right above the ink supply*. The Examiner asserts that claim 61 is directed to an ink cartridge and is anticipated by Nagasaki. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. Applicant has carefully studied Nagasaki's discussion of the ink cartridge, which is not similar to an ink cartridge with an internal opening positioned directly above the ink port as set forth in claim 51.

Nagasaki teaches an ink cartridge with chambers 12 and 13, and a connection part 16 provided in the left of the chamber 13, which connects to the supply pipe 2 of the printing head 1. The connection part 16 is not limited to that position (col. 5, lines 56 to 57). In addition, a portion of the chamber 12 of the ink cartridge 11 protrudes into the chamber 13. The chamber 12 and the chamber 13 communicate with each other via a passage 63 communicating with a communicating hole 15. The passage 63 is constructed so as not to block the flow of the ink. An end of the passage 63 opens upward to the chamber 12, and the other end thereof opens upward to the chamber 13 via the communicating hole 15. The communicating hole 15 is provided with an air filter member 64 (Fig. 9; col. 9, lines 4 to 14). That is, the communication hole 15 forms a crank pass by which the ink cannot flow straight up.

However, Nagasaki teaches that the communication hole 15 is shifted rightward from the supply pipe 2 as shown in Figures 2 and 3. Alternatively, the communication hole 15 is shifted leftwards from the supply pipe 2, as clearly shown in Figure 9. Although the connection part 16 can be located at various locations, the communication hole 15 will never be directly above the supply pipe. There is simply no room for it at that location, e.g., see Fig. 9, the position of spring 17 and valve 18. In addition, the communication hole 15 holds a filter 64 for releasing the air

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bubbles. If the communication hole 15 were to be positioned directly above the supply pipe 2, air bubbles would intrude into the print head as they would approach the communication hole 15. As such, Nagasaki does not teach or suggest having the communication hole 15 being positioned directly above the supply pipe 2.

Therefore, *the internal opening positioned right above the ink port* as set forth in claim 61 is not suggested or taught by Nagasaki, which has the communication hole positioned to the right or to the left of the supply pipe 2. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 61 is patentably distinguishable from Nagasaki. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection of independent claim 61.

New Claim

In order to provide more varied protection, claim 64 is added. Claim 64 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on the independent claim 61.

Conclusion and request for telephone interview.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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